



County of Los Angeles  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

425 SHATTO PLACE – LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90020

(213) 351-5602

ANITA M. BOCK  
Director

Board of Supervisors

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April 30, 2002

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**REQUEST FOR TWELVE ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE  
AND TWO PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE SUPERVISOR POSITIONS  
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) – (3 VOTES)**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Approve interim ordinance authority pursuant to County Code Section 6.06.020 for twelve (12) Public Health Nurses (PHN) and two (2) Public Health Nurse Supervisors (PHNS). The FY 2001-02 Adopted Budget contains sufficient funding for the PHS and PHNS costs. The FY 2002-03 Proposed Budget will reflect the redirection of funding to finance the cost of the budgeted positions.
2. Authorize the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to fill the PHN and PHNS positions.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The purpose of the recommended actions is to enable DCFS to provide a more comprehensive, multi-disciplinary approach to reviewing, assessing and investigating allegations of child abuse and neglect. The PHNs will be fully participating members of the recently implemented Triage Teams.

**Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The recommended actions are consistent with the principles of the Countywide Strategic Plan. The PHNs and PHNSs will expand the capabilities of the multi-disciplinary team in support of the Countywide Strategic Plan Goals 1 (Service

Excellence), 2 (Workforce Excellence), 3 (Organizational Effectiveness), and 5 (Children and Families Well-being).

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

Due to vacancies throughout the department, there is sufficient salary savings to cover the cost of the PHN and PHNS positions for the remainder of FY 2001-02. The FY 2002-03 Proposed Budget will reflect the redirection of the funding to finance the cost of these positions.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

DCFS recently implemented a Triage Team to review and assess child abuse and neglect referrals that are identified as high-risk referrals. The addition of PHNs to the Triage Team will enhance the multi-disciplinary approach to investigations by adding a medical/health facet.

The Triage Teams review complex and high-risk cases to identify issues to assist the Child Protection Investigators in their assessment of child abuse and neglect referrals. The Triage Teams remain in the office and review the current referral and past history to identify child risk factors. The addition of PHNs to the Triage Teams will allow the nurses to add their knowledge and expertise about medical and health issues to the investigations.

Currently, DCFS is utilizing the PHNs assigned to other primary tasks in the regional DCFS offices to consult with Triage Team Social Workers as needed.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES**

By providing DCFS with the authority to hire PHNs for the Triage Teams, the Department will have sufficient staff support to adequately assess all of the identified high-risk child abuse and neglect referrals without diverting PHNs in the regional offices. This will enhance the quality of child abuse and neglect investigations by adding a health professional to assist the Child Protection Investigator.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
April 16, 2001  
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## **CONCLUSION**

Upon approval of the requested actions by the Board of Supervisors, it is requested that the Executive Officer/Clerk of the Board of Supervisors send one adopted copy of the Board letter to the following:

1. Department of Children and Family Services  
Budget Services  
425 Shatto Place, Room #203  
Los Angeles CA 90020  
Attn: Tito Barin, Budget Officer
2. Department of Children and Family Services  
Bureau of Child Protection  
425 Shatto Place, Room #300  
Los Angeles CA 90020  
Attn: Eric Marts, Acting Bureau Chief

Respectfully submitted,

ANITA M. BOCK  
Director

AMB:AM:  
TB:EM:rk

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Department of Human Resources